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EDITORIAL

The garbling of views and the fostering of a morbid interest in crime and the baser passions have become so common on the part of the daily papers of America that it was high time for someone speaking with influence and authority to bring them to book. No one could possibly have done this better than President Scott, whose address has awakened widespread interest. Readers of the *Journal* can perform valuable public service by calling attention to the published article, and all English teachers should, without fail, devote, as he suggests, a few days in every school year to an analysis of the papers which their pupils have opportunity to read. The papers claim to give what the public wants. Let us strive to educate a public which will demand, in unmistakable terms, wholesome and truthful handling of passing events. Newspaper editing is at present, with too few exceptions, far from measuring up to that standard.

The organization of a Committee of Publicity by the National Council of Teachers of English is an important step. The Council is already in close touch with nearly all of the state and city associations, but none of these includes all of the English teachers in its territory and but few school authorities. Now it is precisely the teachers who do not attend association meetings who are most often in need of light as to proper aims and methods of English work. The activities of the Council, moreover, are being directed in large measure to the improvement of conditions, and the hope of this lies in reaching and persuading supervising officers and the patrons of the schools. It is, therefore, of supreme importance that the Council should have a faithful and efficient representative in every part of the country whose business and pleasure it will be to spread the news.

The complete report of the Committee on Labor and Cost of English Teaching in Secondary Schools and Colleges has just been published (see "News and Notes"), and should be read by every teacher and school administrator in the United States who has not already done so. Meanwhile the committee, now enlarged from six to fifteen, is continuing its study of secondary-school problems and is undertaking an even more extensive and thorough inquiry into the conditions and results of English teaching in elementary schools, with the authority and assistance of the Bureau of Education, in addition to that of three national organizations of teachers; and already indications begin to appear that its work may bear important fruit at no very distant day. To this end, everyone who reads the report should constitute himself a publicity committee of one to see that his neighbors do likewise.

An excellent program has been arranged for the special meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English in connection with the Department of Superintendence of the National Education Association at Richmond, Va., February 27. At the afternoon session, beginning at 2 o'clock, the speakers will be Professor Kent, Mr. Certain, Miss Barbour, Mr. Hosic, Mr. McComb, and Professor Cox. The speakers in the evening will be Commissioner Claxton, Professor Lewis (of Hamilton), and Professor Smith (of Virginia). The topics are sufficiently varied to provide a message for all, including those specially concerned with the work of the elementary schools. It is hoped and believed that the occasion will prove as inspiring and as profitable as the stirring meeting which was held at Philadelphia under the same auspices last year. Teachers from the Atlantic states and from the South generally may be counted upon to make the most of this opportunity of participating in the activities of the national society.